

Obituary.

SIR JOHN BATTY TUKE, M.D. EDIN., F.R.C.P.E.,
LL.D. EDIN., D.Sc. (HON. CAUSA) DUB., F.R.S.E., ETC.

SIR JOHN BATTY TUKE, who died at his residence, Balgreen, Gorgie, near Edinburgh, on Monday, October 13th, although associated with Scotland, and particularly with its capital, for nearly his whole life, was a Yorkshireman by birth and a native of Beverley. He exhibited, too, in his life some of the best of the characteristics of the Yorkshireman: he had tenacity of purpose, pluck, grit, and strength of mind, with a sound judgement; his words were always weighty and his opinions to be respected; and he marched steadily on through varying circumstances, remembering, perhaps, that "the Yorkshireman's days are of all sorts and sizes."

Sir John was born in Beverley on January 9th, 1835, and was the eldest son of John Batty Tuke, of that quiet town with the two big churches; his boyhood and youth he, however, spent in Edinburgh—first at school at the Academy and later as a student of medicine in the University. He graduated M.D. in 1856, and married in the same year Lydia Jane Magee, youngest daughter of the Rev. John Magee, Rector of Drogheda, and sister of W. C. Magee, the eloquent Bishop of Peterborough, who was translated to York shortly before his death.

Immediately after his graduation and marriage John Batty Tuke proceeded to New Zealand, where he acted as surgeon to the Colonial troops, and served as senior medical officer in the Maori war from 1860 till nearly the end of the campaign in 1863. He then returned to this country to find his life-work in the department of medicine which deals with the treatment of the insane, a sphere in which earlier Tukes had borne an honourable part; but he had an opportunity in later years of revisiting the battlefields of the Maori war. He began, as many other distinguished alienists have done, as assistant physician at the Royal Edinburgh Asylum; then he acted as medical superintendent of the Fife and Kinross Lunatic Asylum from 1865 to 1873, and did much there to introduce and establish the "open door system" of management. He then returned to Edinburgh, where, along with Drs. Smith and Lowe, he took charge of Saughtonhall Asylum, a large institution for the treatment of the insane, which was then situated to the west of Edinburgh, but has since been removed to the south of the city, to Mavisbank, Polton, under the name of New Saughton Hall. For many years Saughton Hall was under Sir John's sole control, but he was also in practice in Edinburgh as a specialist in mental diseases, and played a leading part in many other spheres of medical interest. Lately he associated his son, Dr. John Batty Tuke, with himself in his asylum work, and became director of New Saughton Hall and visiting physician thereto.

Soon after his return to Edinburgh (in 1874) he was appointed Morison Lecturer in the Royal College of Physicians, to which he had been admitted a Fellow in 1871; exactly twenty years later he again held the Lectureship, and chose as his subject "The Insanity of Over-exertion of the Brain," and many of those who attended remember his huge wall diagram of the

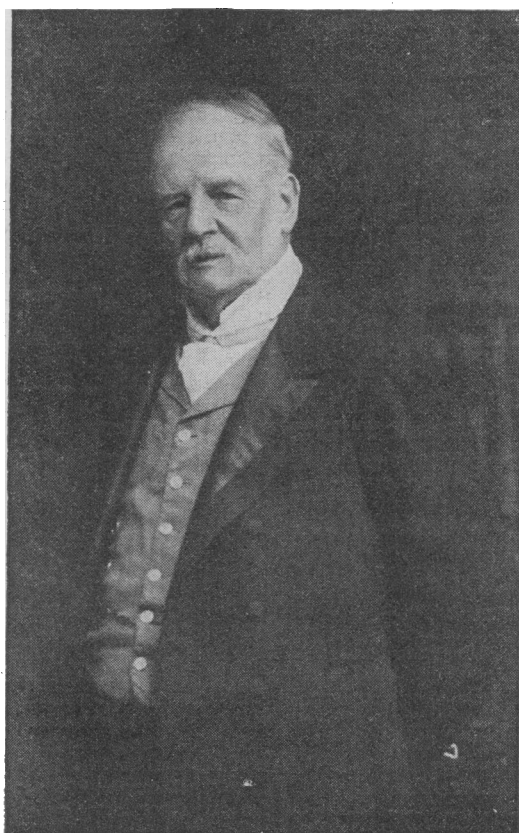
cerebrum—surely the biggest of its kind. He also became a Lecturer on Insanity in the Extramural Medical School (1899) and in the Medical College for Women. He was closely attached to the Royal College of Physicians, representing that body on the General Medical Council for twenty-five years (1887–1912); played a great part in the establishment (1887) and development of the Laboratory for Research of the College, and served for ten years as a manager of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. If any part of his work should be selected for special praise, it should be the labour which he so ungrudgingly bestowed upon the laboratory; and it must have been a keen satisfaction to Sir John to see in the post of superintendent to that institution three such men as Professor Sims Woodhead, Professor Noel Paton, and now Professor James Ritchie.

It was but natural that he should be elected President of the College, and it was during his occupancy of the presidential chair that he received the honour of knighthood (1898); but before this (in 1896) he had been made D.Sc. (*honoris causa*) of Trinity College, University of Dublin, and later his own university (in 1902), inscribed his name as an Honorary Graduate in Law (LL.D.). He had served the university well in Parliament, having been elected member for the dual constituency of Edinburgh and St. Andrews in 1900 as a Unionist, succeeding the late Sir William Priestley. After his election he spent much of his time in London during the parliamentary sessions. He never sought to obtain a prominent position as a party politician, but his frankness, geniality, and wide knowledge of his own subject won the respect of his fellow-members and gave him an influence out of proportion to the part which he took in the public proceedings in the House of Commons. Failing health reconciled him to retiring from a parliamentary career, and in 1910 he made way for Sir Robert Finlay. For the past few years Sir John Batty Tuke lived mostly in retirement, his old enemy, the gout, hampering him a good deal, and ultimately bringing his life to an end on October 13th.

He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh; he had been President of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh, and for many years served as a director of the Royal Maternity Hospital,

Edinburgh. He made a number of important contributions to the study of insanity, and, in addition to publishing his two courses of Morison Lectures, he wrote the articles on "Hysteria," "Insanity," etc., for the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (ninth edition), and published papers on insanity of pregnancy, puerperal insanity, and insanity of lactation, etc.

He was a member of the British Medical Association for many years; he was President of the Section of Psychology at the annual meeting in London in 1895, and at the annual meeting in Edinburgh three years later gave the Address in Psychology. In this address he discussed modern conceptions of the etiology of insanities, and it may be taken as containing his confession of faith as to the scope and future of the speciality to which he had devoted his life. It was characteristic of his temperament and conviction that after thirty-five years' study of the nature and treatment of mental diseases he was able to take a sanguine view of what scientific investigation could do for their elucidation, and that he even then believed that a nosology of mental



SIR JOHN BATTY TUKE.
(Photograph by Elliott and Fry, Ltd.)

diseases founded on morbid anatomy was near at hand. To the realization of this hope he devoted time and energy. He was always anxious to encourage workers in this field of investigation, and ever ready to use his influence to secure for them adequate facilities for the prosecution of such researches. In this same address he insisted on the importance of the special treatment of cases of recent insanity. He urged that they should not be mixed up with the residual and chronic cases, but placed in a separate institution where they could be submitted to systematic treatment on thoroughly hospital principles. The importance of this reform has been generally admitted and greatly extended since he spoke. The wide range of his sympathies in all matters attaching to the functions of the nervous system was shown by his election to be president of the Neurological Society of the United Kingdom.

We have said above that Sir John Batty Tuke showed many of the best characteristics of the Yorkshireman, but we omitted to mention one which endeared him to many of his friends during holiday time. We mean, of course, his love of sport, which was catholic in extent, and included golf as well as shooting and fishing. Although his face has been much less seen on the Edinburgh streets in recent years, there will be many in the profession and out of it who will miss his smile of recognition and somewhat quizzical look of regard.

He is survived by his widow, three sons, and a daughter.

JAMES WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

HOLYWELL, FLINTSHIRE; FORMERLY PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH WALES BRANCH OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

To the general regret there passed away at Holywell, in Flintshire, on September 19th, Dr. James Williams, whose general position in the public esteem is almost sufficiently indicated by a quotation of the term which was often affectionately applied to him—namely, the Grand Old Man of Holywell. He was born in that town in the early years of the third decade of last century, and commenced his medical studies as a pupil of his father, himself a well-known personality in that neighbourhood, and continued them at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, and St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. He became M.R.C.S. in 1848 and L.S.A. in 1849, and served for a time as resident surgeon at Warrington Infirmary, where he played a conspicuous part in connexion with a cholera outbreak. He afterwards joined his father at Holywell, and again had to deal with an outbreak of cholera. His history from that time onward is the history of Holywell itself, for he served it practically for the rest of his life, not only as a medical man, but also as one of its leading citizens. Professional work he gave up some ten years ago, but he remained a member of its urban district council, of which he was the first chairman, and as recently as last year made a short speech at a public meeting in connexion with an antituberculosis exhibition.

During his long career he filled a good many professional offices, and some of them for a remarkably long period. He was, for instance, M.O.H. for the district for thirty-seven years, and public vaccinator for as many as fifty-six. He was a great believer in the truth of the saying, *Salus populi suprema lex*, and his annual health reports bore constant testimony both to this feeling and to his capacity for lucid expression. Modern views on the subject of tuberculosis were no surprise to him, for he used to relate that his father was accustomed to prophesy that the day would come when the current belief that consumption was an hereditary disorder would cease to obtain credence. But, in any case, Dr. Williams would have been prepared to accept the modern view, for he had kept himself in touch with the progress of science throughout his active career, and up to the end of his life exhibited a receptivity of mind quite rare in a man of his advanced age. Until he gave up professional work he had a large family practice, and the soundness of his judgement as a clinical physician was acknowledged not only by his patients but by his professional colleagues over a wide area in North Wales. Among the latter he obtained an excellent reputation quite early in his career, with the result that he was elected by them President of the North Wales Branch of the British Medical Association as far back as 1868. In

his public work he was greatly assisted by the facility he possessed for expressing himself clearly and a certain skill in reconciling the views of conflicting parties.

On the day of his funeral flags were flown half-mast high on all places of public worship in the neighbourhood, and his funeral was attended by a large concourse. Dr. Williams married a niece of his old St. Bartholomew's teacher Frederick Skey, one of Abernethy's more famous pupils. She died some twelve years ago. He is survived by two sons and three daughters, one of the former having succeeded him in his practice at Holywell.

JOHN MACMILLAN, M.A., M.B., C.M., D.Sc., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.C.S.E.,

EDINBURGH.

JOHN MACMILLAN died at his house, 22, George Square, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, October 7th. He underwent a somewhat serious operation about two years ago, and his many friends in the profession and outside of it were delighted when he made a good recovery therefrom, and was to be seen once more in college and lecture room, at examination meetings, and on the streets of the city, where his strikingly tall and slim figure always attracted attention. The end, however, was not far off, and he passed away, almost without his acquaintances knowing that he was again laid aside, on October 7th, when the medical classes were opening, and the students who were always so dear to his heart were reassembling. It was at a somewhat more advanced age than is common that Dr. Macmillan turned to the medical profession. He was an M.A. of St. Andrews, and a B.Sc. in Natural Science of Edinburgh University in 1879; he spent some years first at Perth Academy, and later in the Academy of Edinburgh engaged in teaching mathematics and science, and there are not a few members of the medical profession living in Edinburgh now who were his pupils in one or other of these two academies. He imbued many a lad and young man with a true love of botany and the natural sciences. He graduated M.B., C.M. Edin. in 1892, B.Sc. in Public Health in the same university in the following year, and D.Sc. in 1894. He was elected a Member of the Royal College of Physicians in 1895, and a Fellow of the same College in 1896; and some years later (1903) he was also elected a Fellow of the sister College (of Surgeons). He studied abroad as well as at home, visiting the medical schools of Jena, Berlin, Vienna, and Paris. He became in 1910 a lecturer on medical jurisprudence and public health in the Edinburgh extramural school, and he was an examiner in biology for the College of Physicians and for the D.P.H. of the College of Surgeons. Dr. Macmillan was also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and of Edinburgh Obstetrical Society, and was President of the Scottish Natural History Society. He gave a paper on fungi in the aerial roots of epiphytic orchids to the British Association in 1885. Kindliness was perhaps the most outstanding of Dr. Macmillan's characters, and no one could be long in his company without discovering it; it was only on further acquaintance that his stores of accumulated learning were revealed. Possibly he was at his best as a teacher, and he loved science; but he was always a sympathetic and attentive practitioner of medicine, too. Dr. Macmillan was never married.

ONE of the best-known medical practitioners in the east end of Glasgow, Dr. MATTHEW MARTIN, died with startling suddenness on October 10th. He had been engaged in his usual round of visiting when he became ill about midday, and dropped in the street. He died before assistance could be given him. He had been chatting with a friend a few minutes before his sudden attack. He was a native of the east end of Glasgow, his father and his brother both having served for long periods in the town council and city magistracy. His brother, Mr. J. H. Martin, was at the time of his death the "father of the council." Dr. Martin graduated at the University of Glasgow in 1862, and since then has been in practice in the city. He was treasurer for the Poor Law Medical Association, and for thirty years served on the Glasgow Parish Council. It was expected that he would enter for municipal honours next month, a course that had long been pressed upon him. He was a most enthusiastic worker, and in addition to his